



## March 2023 Newsletter

*Please feel free to forward this newsletter to friends who might be interested in knowing about Five Cities Orchid Society and encourage them to subscribe at [www.fcos.org](http://www.fcos.org)*



### **From the President's Potting Bench**

I'd like to welcome our new subscribers and members to the Five Cities Orchid Society (FCOS), as well as acknowledge our ongoing and long-term members. You are all so appreciated!

My collection is going through its late-winter transition. Many of my greenhouse orchids remain dormant while many of my outdoor orchids are busy blooming away. The yard is dotted with blooming Cymbidiums, Epidendrums, Laelias and Aussie Dendrobiums. Aussie Dendrobium flowers bloom heavily with cold temperatures, and demonstrate a range of forms, colors, and textures. I really love how they sequentially bloom on previously-bloomed canes, which helps

them quickly develop into delightful specimen plants. They are truly some of my favorite orchids.

Pictures of my orchids, as well as those of other members, are featured in this monthly newsletter. We would love to see your blooms as well! When you have a new bloom, please consider submitting a picture along with the plant identity and any growing tips for success. Please email the pictures/information to Ed Lysek. His contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

Last month FCOS held a repotting clinic at CalPoly. About 10 members of our group provided the students with potting instruction and demonstrations, with a focus on Cattleyas. We worked collectively to divide and repot a greenhouse full of plants. Afterwards we had lunch at 1865 Craft House in SLO. It was quite a fun and satisfying day.

**Upcoming Event:**

We have got another fun month ahead of us starting with the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, March 10-12, 2023. Chris Ehrler and Eric Holanda will be creating FCOS' exhibit the week before the show. They would appreciate any contribution of time and/or orchids for their displays. Contact Eric if you are interested in helping. His contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

**Upcoming Event:**

Please join us for our monthly meeting/Orchid Talk on March 9th at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Guest Speaker Tim Culbertson will be presenting on growing Vandaceous mini orchids in outdoor environments.

**Upcoming Event:**

FCOS will participate in the Art in the Garden at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden and a plant sale on March 25, 26 and 27, 2023. Art in the Garden is an opportunity for artists to show and sell their work as well as to share the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden with community members. It will be held at the Garden's Oak Glen Pavilion and the surrounding patio spaces.

[Volunteer to help at the FCOS booth at Art in the Garden by clicking HERE](#)

**Upcoming Event:**

Orchid Fest 2023 will be held April 1-2, 2023 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the SLO Botanical Garden Pavilion. Plant sales, auctions, raffles, and a cake auction will be featured during the event. Sunset Valley Orchids, OrchidDesign, Ambriz Kingdom of Plants, CalCoast Orchids, SLO Orchids, and Orchids of Los Osos are our honored vendors and will be offering their spectacular plants for sale. Volunteers are needed for the FCOS booth, to answer questions, sell orchids and run the auction. This is your opportunity to talk orchids and meet existing and prospective members. We really need the participation of our local members to make this happen. Please call or email me if you would like to volunteer—my contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

[Volunteer to help at Orchid Fest 2023 by clicking HERE](#)

**Upcoming Events:**

FCOS has arranged to have some fascinating speakers for our upcoming monthly meeting/Orchid Talks covering a variety of subjects, such as: Orchids on the California Coast and Inland, Orchids from Mediterranean climates, Orchids of Crete and Australia, as well as specific information about Laelias, Cattleyas, Vandas, Pleurothallids, Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums. Be sure to come back and check this link often for our updated schedules and special events: <https://www.fcos.org/events-and-where>

**Join and Support FCOS**

I would like to encourage your support to the FCOS by paying your annual dues if you haven't done so already this year. We are also grateful for any donation you can contribute. These funds help us grow our programs and bring you engaging and knowledgeable speakers. FCOS is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

<https://fcos.betterworld.org/donate>

Check FCOS's Member Benefits page on our website for information on becoming a member of FCOS. <https://www.fcos.org/memberbenefits>

Happy Blooming!

Jeff



Australian dendrobium hybrids grown outside in Los Osos and freely flowering.





*Dendrobium kinaianum*



Dendrobium hybrid from Sunset Valley Orchids.



*Slc. Art Deco*





*Slc. Art Deco (LC Trick or Treat 'orange Magic's Ctt. Helen Velez'Nancy'- grown and bloomed under LED lights by Jeff Parham*





## Tim Culbertson "Vandaceous Minis for Outdoors"

The Five Cities Orchid Society invites you to our series of Orchid Talks 2023. March 9th, 2023, 7pm join us on Zoom.

Tim Culbertson's talk is entitled "Beautiful Miniature Vandaceous Orchids for Outdoors." These plants are easy to grow and flower, are vigorous, and have low cultural demands; they are natives of Australia or Japan and will grow easily outdoors in California.

Tremendous advancements in breeding *Sarcochilus* and *Neofineta* have been made recently, and he will share some of these with you, as well as help identify some of the important parents in the backgrounds of new and modern colors found in these genera. By the end of this presentation, you will have a new appreciation of what goes into breeding trends for these types of plants, as well as an appreciation of their beautiful flowers and ease-of-growth. Tim will be providing an opportunity to get some of the newest, modern, cutting-edge temperature-tolerant Vandaceous species and hybrids!

Five Cities Orchid Society (FCOS) is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FCOS's Orchid Talks

Time: 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82355435739?pwd=bThHazRPekw5cjhnYmNzMlpkTW96dz09>

**Meeting ID: 823 5543 5739**

Passcode: 204435

## Last Month's Speaker was Ron Parsons



Ron Parsons spoke to the FCOS group during their February 2023 zoom meeting about "Crete Isle of Orchids". Ron has taken two trips to Crete generally early April. He suggested the best time to experience the most orchids and other spring flowers on this island is from about April 4-14 based on his experience there. Ron stated that after then the air temperature increased and the flowers are gone. Crete is an island off the southern coast of Greece and is about 160 miles by about 40 miles in size. He showed slides of many orchids and a wide variety of other flowering plants he was able to see. The orchid genera included many species of *Anacamptis*, *Ophrys*, *Orchis*, *Serapias*, and *Neotinea* (formerly *Orchis*). Some of the orchids are endemic to Crete, such as *Anacamptis boryi*, while others like *Ophrys tenthredinifera* are widespread throughout the Mediterranean area.

For information on Ron's book, "A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species" please [click here](#).





*Anacamptis boryi*





*Ophrys tenthredinifera*



### **Call for Artists, Craftspeople and Plant supply Vendors**

*Call for artists, craftspeople and sellers of plant related items (fertilizer, hydroponics supplies, potting media) to sell orchid related items at Orchid Fest 2023 at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. The sale will be from 10AM to 4PM Sat. and Sunday, April 1-2. Sales of plants will be limited to the 7 orchid vendors who will be located inside the Oak Pavilion and the sale of native plants by SLOBG.*

**OUTDOOR VENDORS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SELL PLANTS.**

**Where:** San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

**When:** set up from noon to 3 PM Friday, March 31. Sale: Sat and Sunday, 10 AM to 4 PM April 1-2, 2023. Vendors may keep their pop-up tents in place overnight but are encouraged to remove merchandise and valuables.

**Sellers to provide their own pop-up tent, tables and display hardware and handle their own sales transactions.**



Know an artist or vendor who might like to have a pop-up booth at this event? Forward this newsletter to them and ask them to contact Michelle Ralston.

**VISIT [WWW.FCOS.ORG](http://WWW.FCOS.ORG) FOR  
MORE INFORMATION**

**Cost:** \$30 registration fee due March 1 plus 20% of sales revenue (to be reported on an honor basis). A website will be provided for credit card payment of the \$30 registration fee and donation of 20% of sales revenue (due on April 3) and an address will be provided for payment by check. We recommend vendors accept only credit card and check payments if possible.

**Publicity:** Extensive direct mailings, social media, local media press releases and support from local garden clubs and orchid societies.

**How to apply:** - email, call or text Michelle Ralston, (805) 698- 6321 (michelle.k.ralston@gmail.com), with a description of your items for sale (representative photos are welcome) and a description of your business. Please include your CA Seller's Permit Number.

## About Us

*Five Cities Orchid Society's mission is to encourage growing, blooming and enjoyment of orchids and companion plants by our members and the general public. To sponsor outreach, research and educational programs to promote orchid growing as a hobby or business. To promote the conservation of orchids in the wild." We are a 501(C)3 Non-profit organization.*

This event brings high quality orchid sellers to SLO County and gives you the opportunity to purchase fantastic orchids, air plants and carnivorous plants without having to pay an admission fee (parking per vehicle at the County Park is \$3). Economical, convenient and a great way to spend a few hours on the weekend.





## I'm Going To "Orchid Fest 2023"... Are You?

Don't miss this chance to add to your orchid collections and ask the experts all of your orchid growing questions. There will be air plants (Tillandsia) and carnivorous plants as well! Profiles of three of the six orchid vendors and their contact information is listed below. All six orchid vendors are profiled [HERE](#).





### [SLO Orchids](#) at Orchid Fest 2023

SLO Orchids has been supplying quality orchids to discerning growers across the USA since 1993. Located in Arroyo Grande, CA the owner, Don Elkins added carnivorous plants to their plant offerings in 2020. Selling primarily through their website [www.SLOorchids.com](http://www.SLOorchids.com) and plant shows, subscribers to their newsletter receive news of special offers for orchids and carnivorous plants for sale. Both orchids and carnivorous pitcher plants and Venus fly trap plants will be offered for sale at Orchid Fest 2023 at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden April 1-2.



### [Ambriz Kingdom of Plants at Orchid Fest 2023](#)

Joe Ambriz has been spreading his passion of plants and horticulture throughout California for over 20 years. From a back yard grower in Santa Barbara to a business with multiple greenhouses now in Carpinteria. Growing and breeding *Laelia anceps* (Mexican *Laelia*'s) along with many *Laelia*'s, *Cattleya* and other fun and exciting orchids. Working at a retail nursery as asst. manager for over 12 years, Joe's passion spreads beyond orchids with a large collection of *Tillandsia* (Air Plants) rare-unusual exotic cactus and succulents as well as other interesting botanicals. Along with a passion and great knowledge for growing unique and exotic plants, Joe has won many first place award for his displays at Orchid shows, with the last one being this past October taking first place display at the Huntington Library International Orchid Show. Joe is open by appointment Monday-Saturday in Beautiful Carpinteria and can be found selling at the Santa Barbara International Orchid show March 10th-12th, as well as the 5 cities Orchid society 'Orchid Fest 2023' at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden April 1st-2nd.

Contact Joe:

IG: @ambrizkingdomofplants

Facebook: @ambrizkingdomofplants

Email: [ambrizkingdomofplants@gmail.com](mailto:ambrizkingdomofplants@gmail.com)

40851570-5700





## Sunset Valley Orchids at Orchid Fest 2023

Orchid hobbyists from around the world have realized how rewarding flowering Orchid hybrids can be. Imagine blooming your new hybrid plant and knowing you will be the first person ever to see those flowers! How cool is that? You'll have a one-of-a-kind plant unique to your collection, like an original piece of art.

Our passion for breeding drives us; we are constantly exploring and discovering new combinations providing the latest and most promising hybrids available. This commitment is evident in everything we do.

We hybridize with the orchid hobbyist in mind and for ourselves as we are also orchid hobbyists.

The breeding lines are focused on four primary areas:

- Plants that are easy to grow and bloom
- Plants that are compact in size
- Flowers of new colors and shapes
- Flowers that are exhibition quality

Our long-term commitment in the development of our Cattleya breeding program has spanned over 40 years. Our creative abilities have developed many new and unique hybrids. Orchid hobbyists can attest to this, as hundreds of awards have been given to their plants originating from Sunset Valley Orchids. Ask your orchid friends about us, we believe you will find a high level of satisfaction!

In recent years, orchid hobbyists have realized how rewarding the Catasetinae alliance can be. We believe at Sunset Valley Orchids that every orchid hobbyist has a place for these unique plants in their collections. As the top breeder of this group, we lead with cutting edge breeding, developing and breaking new boundaries for orchid enthusiasts worldwide. The development of the "blackest orchid seen," Fredclarkera After Dark pictured above (Mo. Painted Desert x Ctsm. Donna Wise), captured a great deal of attention. The next generation of Catasetinae hybrids we are dreaming of will be even more spectacular. Grow some and be part of that dream!

We take pride in offering only the best grown plants. All of our orchid hybrids are grown from seed; we raise them to maturity in our 48,000 sq. ft. greenhouse space. Our rigorous selection process allows for the strongest plants to be advanced through each phase of the production cycle. This process starts in the lab, at de-flasking, throughout the up-potting, and then carries through to maturity. This rigorous process assures that we offer only the healthiest, most vigorous plants.

We believe our breeding stock is exceptional. Please plan to spend a bit of time looking at our orchid catalog, it is broad and deep. The beautiful pictures of the parents and the extensive descriptions are there to help you visualize the artistic potential of each hybrid. We have spent hundreds of hours developing these new crosses, creating an opportunity for you to acquire one-of-a-kind plants for your orchid collection.

We work hard to provide the best plants and genetics; we want you to become a customer for life! Nothing makes us happier than hearing back from our customers sharing their joy and satisfaction from blooming our hybrids.

Sunset Valley Orchids now produces all its electrical needs via 124 photo voltaic solar panels.

Fred Clarke -owner and hybridizer



## Repotting at CalPoly



Repotting orchids at CalPoly on Saturday, April 11th was very well attended by both CalPoly students as well as FCOS volunteers. Here Eric gives guidance to two CalPoly students who are now subscribers to this newsletter.

Hilding talked about his use of recycled rubber granules (mixed with perlite) as a long lasting, porous media for Cattleyas.



Deciding where to make a division and how big of a saw to use on these overgrown Cattleyas. Eventually, all of the orchids were divided and hopefully off to a good start in smaller pots and fresh media.

Michelle and Karen did a great job replanting numerous overgrown Cattleyas. Wendy of CalPoly was gracious and appreciative and gave all volunteers a blooming plant of *Bc. Maikai* as a thank you (see below).



*Bc. Maikai* (Hawaiian for "beautiful") is a primary hybrid of *Brassovola nodosa* and *Cattleya* (now *Guaranthe*) *bowringiana*. Introduced by Hirose in 1944. Grows in intermediate conditions - bright diffuse light, allow to dry between watering. Vigorous grower and blooms from Jan. to March. Give plenty of water and fertilizer in Spring and Summer and the plant will quickly grow into a large specimen plant.





## Are you a new subscriber?

A Warm Welcome to our new subscribers. President Jeff's use of social media ads, his CalPoly re-potting day and our members work with the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden's media program has resulted in our subscriber list now exceeding 360 subscribers. For those of you new to this newsletter and to orchid growing in general, please take a look at some of our archived issues [HERE](#). A quick sampling of past articles:

October 2020 - Eric Holenda talks about potting and growing Oncidiums the "dancing lady" orchids.

July 2021 - Ana Satara explains the importance of location and light to maximize growth.

May 2022 - Scott McGregor discusses Mediterranean orchids and how to grow these terrestrials in pots.

There are 45 issues archived on [www.fcos.org](http://www.fcos.org) and many if not all are worth reading and re-reading. Thanks to Chris Ehrler for his summaries and providing pdf versions of these newsletters.

This is a member driven orchid society and newsletter. We encourage all of you to send photos of your favorite orchids, email us questions and most importantly, volunteer for our many programs to get to know other members and to gain experience growing orchids. See the list of Board Members below with links to their emails to send your photos and to contact us.

A great way to get to know other FCOS members is to volunteer by clicking:

To volunteer for Art in the Garden [click Here](#).

To volunteer for Orchid Fest 2023 [click Here](#).

## What's Blooming Now - a few photos from our members and friends



Dendrobium hybrid. I called this one the 'one no-one wanted'. This orchid was in the last FCOS online auction but it had some damaged leaves that were spotted due probably to past bug bites. But as you can see it still bloomed well and the photo below is one of the flowers. Care taken by Chris Ehrler until the next auction.

Closeup of one of the flowers on the above Dendrobium hybrid.







Jeffrey Thompson purchased these two Masdevallias from Ecuagenera during the Covid period when they were shipping orchids because there were no shows. They are both labeled *Masdevallia ayabacana* with the back one being 4N (double the chromosomes). As you can see the colors of the flowers are different. He stated that the back one looks like a hybrid named *Masdevallia Cinnamon Twist*.



*Myoxanthys serripetalus*  
Chris AM/AOS. Is a cool to cold growing terrestrial or epiphyte found in Peru and Ecuador on the eastern Andes at elevations of 1000 to 3100 meters. This plant is about 3 feet tall and produces flowers throughout the year. This orchid is growing in a clay pot filled with moss and placed in a cool greenhouse. But some keikeis from this orchid are growing well outside in a clay pot filled with moss. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.

Front view of *Myoxanthys  
serripetalus* Chris AM/AOS.





Side view of *Myoxanthys serripetalus* Chris AM/AOS.



Closeup of *Myoxanthys  
serripetalus* Chris AM/AOS.





*Pleurothallis restrepiodes*.  
Grows natively in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru in cool to warm conditions at elevations of 800 to 2900 meters as an epiphyte or terrestrially. Grown outside in a plastic pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of *Pleurothallis restrepiodes* spike.



Closeup of *Pleurothallis restrepiodes* flowers.



*Restrepia chameleon*. A cool growing epiphyte found in Norte de Santander Colombia at an elevation around 2700 meters. This orchid is growing in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of *Restrepia chameleon* flower.





*Restrepia guttulata* yellow flower form. A cold to cool growing epiphyte found in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela at elevations of 1700 to 3000 meters. This orchid is growing in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Side view of *Restrepia guttulata* yellow flower form.







*Restrepia guttulata* reddish flower form.  
Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Side view of *Restrepia guttulata* reddish flower form.





*Restrepia mendozae*. Native to southeastern Ecuador in the Cordillera del Condor at elevations around 1500 meters as a small sized, warm growing epiphyte. But this plant is growing well in a cool greenhouse. It is planted in sphagnum moss in a clay pot. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.



Side view of *Restrepia mendozae* flower.





*Scaphosepalum beluosum*  
'Kiri'. Grows as a cool to cold epiphyte in at elevations from f 1500 to 2200 meters. Is growing in a plastic mesh pot filled with sphagnum moss which is hanging in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Front view of  
*Scaphosepalum beluosum*  
'Kiri' flower.



Side view of *Scaphosepalum beluosum*  
'Kiri' flower.



Label states this is *Stelis eublepharis* but it does not match the photos in [orchidspecies.com](https://orchidspecies.com). *Stelis eublepharis* is native to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and northwestern Venezuela as a cool growing epiphyte growing at elevations around 2100. This orchid is going in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.

*Stelis eublepharis* flowers. The photos of this species in [orchidspecies.com](https://orchidspecies.com) show the cilia on the petals and sepals being longer, the sepals being more pointed, and the petals being different. So the label probably should just be *Stelis* spp.







*S/c. Hsin Buu Lady 'Y.T'* from Cal Orchids is one of my few red cattleyas. A little sunburned from too much sun this past summer, but two spikes are coming into full bloom in spite of the cold (and snowy) weather. This hybrid was introduced in 2000 and a cross of *L. anceps* and *C. Wendy's Valentine*. -Ed Lysek

*Lc. canarensis* 'Golden Glow' mounted on a section of grape vine. This primary hybrid is a cross between *L. anceps* and *C. harpophylla* and was introduced by Ingram in 1906. It grows and blooms like *L. anceps* and can take cold winters and warm summers. Grown by Ed Lysek





*Blc.* Topaz Impact grown from a flask planted out in 2018. Not only does this Sunset Valley Orchids hybrid have fantastic flowers, on warm sunny afternoons the fragrance fills my greenhouse. Ed Lysek

*Slc.* Coastal Sunrise 'Tropico' This is such a lovely color. The spikes sit up there so stately. It is another plant that brings a smile to your face. Easy to grow in our greenhouse. Don't forget to water and fertilize. Chuck & Judy Scheithauer.



*Rhyncholaelia digbyana.* This beautiful plant is easy to grow - water every now and then and feed. If you look closely, you can see 3 more buds starting to open. You will know when it blooms - its fragrance is a sweet, fresh scent. -Chuck & Judy

*Cym.* Karen 'Blacklake' X Nipomo Sunset  
'Blacklake' This is a recent addition to our  
collection. It makes you smile and feel perky  
when you walk by it. -Chuck & Judy





Did I pay my FCOS 2022 Membership? Click [HERE](#) to see if your name is on our Paid Members List. Thank you for all who have paid their 2022 Membership dues.

## Membership Benefits and How to Join FCOS

- The FCOS Newsletter emailed every month. Keep up to date on FCOS activities, enjoy entertaining and informative articles, and orchid culture tips. [Sign up for FCOS newsletter.](#)
- Monthly Zoom talks from local and worldwide Orchid Experts.
- Opportunities to win beautiful and quality orchids.
- Network with amateur, advanced collectors and commercial growers
- Select invitation to our Holiday Party/Summer Picnic and Auctions.
- Participation in our Annual Central California Coast Orchid Show
- Create orchid displays for The Huntington Botanical Gardens International Orchid Show/The Santa Barbara International Orchid Show.
- Invitation to exclusive FCOS Field-trips to out of town vendors and events.
- [Click to download a copy of the FCOS Membership Form.](#)
- Membership dues are \$25 per year for an individual or family. \$15 after June 1 for the balance of the calendar year.
- **Make your check payable to Five Cities Orchid Society, PO Box 1066 Grover Beach, CA 93483.**
- **Please include your completed membership form with your payment.**
- Thank You for becoming a member of the Five Cities Orchid Society.

### Payment by Credit Card with an FCOS-BetterWorld Account

If you wish to pay for your membership by **credit card**, you will need to establish an account with the FCOS processing service BetterWorld. Establishing an FCOS-BetterWorld account will also enable you to participate in FCOS on-line orchid auctions as well as paying for your membership dues. [Click here to create an FCOS-BetterWorld account and pay for your membership by credit card.](#)

**A Lifetime Individual Membership is available for a one-time donation of \$500. Your generous donation enables FCOS to attract quality speakers, create content rich newsletters and most importantly helps finance one of the largest regional orchid shows in the western U.S. You can submit your lifetime membership payment by check using the [FCOS Membership Form](#) or by credit card by clicking this link: [FCOS-BetterWorld Lifetime Membership Donation of \\$500.](#)**



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# Arcadia Greenhouses



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### FCOS Garage Sale

Send an email to [Jeff Parham](mailto:Jeff.Parham@fcos.com), [Chris Ehrler](mailto:Chris.Ehrler@fcos.com) or [Ed Lysek](mailto:Ed.Lysek@fcos.com) and include an image of your item, a description, price, and your contact info. We'll include your info in our next monthly newsletter if there is space. FCOS assumes no responsibility for payment, taxes, etc. We ask the items be orchid or plant related. FCOS is not taking a commission or participating in any other way.

Orchid Virus tests from Agi labs. \$8 each, contact Jeff at [jsp1440@aol.com](mailto:jsp1440@aol.com)

Cymbidiums for sale. 1- and 5-gallon pots in spike contact. Jeff at [jsp1440@aol.com](mailto:jsp1440@aol.com)

### Five Cities Orchid Society 2023 Board of Directors

**Jeff Parham**, *President*

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**Orchids are really great!**

Five Cities Orchid Society, P.O. Box 1066, Grover Beach, CA 93483-1066, USA

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